



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

May 14, 1913.

*To the Board of Directors of the Illinois State Historical
Society:*

GENTLEMEN:

I beg to submit to you my report of the affairs of the Illinois State Historical Society for the year ending May 14, 1913.

The Society has grown and extended its influence largely during the year. We now have more than 1,300 members of all classes, including honorary members, annual members, life members, and press association members.

Of course our membership is principally resident of this State, but we have quite a number of former residents of Illinois who now live in other states but who have not lost their interest in their old home and who keep in touch with Illinois history through membership in this Society and its publications. We have one life member who resides in Paris, France.

The Society has attempted this year to maintain the high standard of its publications and the Journal continues to create interest in all parts of the country. It does not attempt to compete with or rival the Illinois Historical Collections which are prepared with great labor and expense by special writers, but its editors wish it to be the special organ of the members of the Society, and they desire contributions from it, especially on matters pertaining to local history.

The editors and the Secretary of the Society make a special plea for information in regard to local historical

events, local records of any kind, collections of letters, and local books and pamphlets.

I wish each member would regard himself as a special committee or agent for his own locality, to hunt up for the Society such material. An urgent letter asking for aid in securing historical material of this nature was published in the April Journal of the Society. You are requested to carefully read this letter.

We have lost by death a number of our valued members.

As notices of death and brief biographies appear in the Journal, I do not give them here.

The Society assisted in the observance of the Madison County Centennial at Edwardsville, on September 16, 1912. This was a notable and successful affair, and will serve as an example of what a county can accomplish. The Secretary sent some material to help in the historical exhibit and a committee from the Society and many members attended the dedication of the monument which was erected by the State to the memory of Governor Ninian Edwards and the pioneers of the county.

Committees have also been appointed to assist in the Edwards County and the St. Clair County Centennial observances in 1914. The Society held a special meeting on February 18, 1913. Mr. Meese and Mr. Thompson addressed the meeting. Mr. Thompson on his work on the Lincoln Way, and Mr. Meese gave an illustrated lecture on early Illinois. The meeting was largely attended.

THE DOUGLAS CENTENNIAL.

The State of Illinois officially observed, on April 23, 1913, the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Stephen A. Douglas. A joint session of the General Assembly was held at which time addresses were made by United States Senators Lewis and Sherman of Illinois, and Reed of Missouri. Mr. W. L. Davidson of Lewistown, Illinois, a friend of Senator Douglas and the editor of a paper in 1858, was one of the speakers.

Mr. Robert D. Douglas, of Greensboro, N. C., a grandson of Senator Douglas, was the guest of the State and made an interesting and appropriate address. Mr. Douglas was received with great enthusiasm and his resemblance to his grandfather was generally noted.

CENTENNIAL OF THE STATE.

The work for the celebration of the centennial of the State has begun. The Legislature has by joint resolution created a commission to plan for the centennial of the State's admission to the Union, in 1918.

This commission consists of ten members of the General Assembly, five Senators and five members of the lower House, President James, Professor Greene, Professor Garner, of the State University, and Dr. O. L. Schmidt and Jessie Palmer Weber, of the Illinois State Historical Society.

I now ask the members of this Society to give this matter earnest thought and then make suggestions to the Secretary of the Society, who is a member of the commission. Let us make our State's centennial memorable.

President James has said that as we celebrate a century of progress of the most wonderful republic the world has ever known and of a century of the life of one of the most remarkable of the states of this republic, it will be an opportunity for us to make this a celebration world-wide in its scope, and that it is none too soon to actively begin preparations.

It is to be hoped that we will have a new building for the historical and educational departments of the State by that time and that it will be thoroughly appropriate and beautiful. This building may be called the Centennial Memorial building.

Senator Logan Hay, of Sangamon county, introduced a bill for a new building for the Historical Society and allied interests. I regret that we are unable to report that very high hopes are entertained for the passage of

this bill as owing to the great demand for money and the necessary increased rate of taxation it does not seem likely that the necessary legislation for the building can be secured at this session of the Legislature. We are not discouraged by these conditions and we must continue to work for it, and the prospect of obtaining such a building as a part of the centennial celebration, as mentioned before, ought to be an aid and inspiration to us.

The Transactions of the Society for the past two years are in the hands of the printer. The great number of State boards and commissions, including many temporary or special ones, which are all required to make reports, make the pressure of public printing something enormous. As executive officers and their reports have precedence always, it means long delays for minor boards.

Other legislation for historical projects has also been discouraged.

Madison county, under the leadership of Senator Beall, Mr. Flagg, both members of this Society, and the other Representatives from that district, has been making a valiant struggle for the purchase and preservation of the Great Cahokia Mound.

Efforts are being made to secure for the State the site and remains of old Fort Chartres.

Also the white pine forests of Ogle county; this last named project has received great assistance from the State Federation of Woman's Clubs.

The State Park Board is recommending and assisting in the worthy objects and is attempting to extend its work by further improvements and more land at Starved Rock.

On June 14, Flag Day, the Illinois D. A. R. will hold a rally at Starved Rock, at which this Society will be represented by some members who are connected with both associations.

Our Journal grows in public favor constantly and our research work increases daily. Letters of inquiry on

many subjects are daily received. These require a large amount of research. This demand we attempt to meet, but during the legislative session especially this requires strenuous labor and exertion.

The collection of Lincoln material is growing every day. Many valuable additions having been made since my last report, some valuable manuscripts among them. These have been mentioned in the Journal. We purchase all new books about Mr. Lincoln and we keep the "old book man" busy searching for obscure material for us. We hope to have a list of our Lincoln books printed before the next celebration of Mr. Lincoln's birthday. These will be arranged according to the plan devised by Judge Fish, of Minneapolis, and known to Lincoln students as the "Fish Bibliography."

GENEALOGY.

Our genealogical department is making long strides, and is one of the most popular of the Library. The chairman of this department will make a report so it is only necessary for me to say that Miss Osborne, the chairman, has compiled a list of the principal genealogical works in the Library which is now in the hands of the printer, and which will be a hand-book for central Illinois students of genealogy.

The Society has grown in every way. In strength, influence and membership. We ought not be satisfied with one single meeting or two a year. Most societies have quarterly meetings. We do not need elaborate programs more than once a year, but we ought to have meetings on historic anniversaries and we ought to be more helpful to local and new societies, and above all, pardon me for saying it, we need more activity in our committees and among the members of the Society. With so much to encourage us we ought to work harder to take our place as the leading historical society of the United States.

We are second to no state society in point of numbers, and we surely are second to none in the personnel of our members.

Dr. Snyder accuses me of wearing rose-colored glasses and I want to urge this Society to help me and yourselves in keeping our work, our realizations and our hopes, of the most roseate and optimistic colors. I thank you all on behalf of myself and my associates in the Library for your continued kindness and consideration.

Very respectfully,

JESSIE PALMER WEBER,
Secretary Illinois State Historical Society.